Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A system comprising:

a processing system comprising memory; and

a communication adapter adapted to be coupled to a transmission medium, wherein the processing system further comprises:

logic to receive a sleep message from a power management system;

logic to place the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and

logic to selectively lower a speed of a clock signal ~~to a clock speed~~ from a first clock speed to a second clock speed corresponding with ~~said~~ the sleep state, the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol having a first data transmission rate and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol having a second data transmission rate;

~~said~~ the communication adapter is adapted to save data local to ~~said~~ the communication adapter in ~~said~~ the memory prior to transitioning to ~~said~~ the sleep state.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the processing system further comprises:

logic to determine the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and

logic to selectively lower the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the processing system further comprises:

logic to determine a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and

logic to selectively command the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 6 (Original): The system of claim 1, wherein the processing system further comprises logic to place the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

Claim 7 (Original): The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a data bus coupled between the communication adapter and the processing system, and wherein the processing system further comprises logic to selectively initiate a write command on the data bus addressed to the communication adapter specifying a change in one of a clock signal frequency and a communication protocol in response to the sleep message.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): An article comprising a storage medium comprising machine-readable instructions stored thereon for:

receiving a sleep message;

saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory;

placing ~~said~~ the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and

selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal ~~to a clock speed~~ from a first clock speed to a second clock speed corresponding with ~~said~~ the sleep state, the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol having a first data transmission rate and the second clock speed controls

the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol having a second data transmission rate.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for:

determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and

selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for:

determining a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and

selectively commanding the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal frequency associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 13 (Original): The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for placing the communication adapter in an auto-sensing state in response to a resume message.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A method comprising:

receiving a sleep message;

saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory;

placing ~~said~~ the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and

selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal ~~to a clock speed~~ from a first clock speed to a second clock speed corresponding with ~~said~~ the sleep state, the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol having a first data transmission rate and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol having a second data transmission rate.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:

determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and

selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:

determining a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and

selectively commanding the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises placing the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a sleep message; means for saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory;

means for placing ~~said~~ the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message;

means for selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal ~~to a clock speed~~ from a first clock speed to a second clock speed corresponding with ~~said~~ the sleep state, the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol having a first data transmission rate and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol having a second data transmission rate.

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and

means for selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for determining a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and

means for selectively commanding the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 25 (Original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for placing the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the communication adapter is further adapted to retrieve ~~said~~ the local data saved in ~~said~~ the memory when ~~said~~ the communication adapter resumes to a full power state.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine readable instructions stored thereon for retrieving ~~said~~ the data local to ~~said~~ the communication adapter saved in ~~said~~ the system memory upon ~~said~~ the communication adapter resuming a full power state.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises retrieving ~~said~~ the data local to ~~said~~ the communication adapter saved in ~~said~~ the system memory upon ~~said~~ the communication adapter resuming a full power state.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising means for retrieving ~~said~~ the data local to ~~said~~ the communication adapter saved in ~~said~~ the system memory upon ~~said~~ the communication adapter resuming a full power state.